

Winter Recreation Guide



Visit our website for more information:
www.danecountyparks.com/winter-rec



(608) 224-3730
dane-parks@countyofdane.com

Fees & Permits

Visiting and hiking in the Dane County Park System is free. Some activities require a daily or annual permit that can be purchased online or at electronic pay stations at some properties. Purchase online at: www.reservedane.com

Free Activities

- Cross-country skiing (undesignated trails)
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing & Hiking
- Winter Biking (some trails)

Activities Requiring a Permit

- Cross-country Skiing (designated trails)
- Dogs in Parks
- Ice Fishing/Lake Access Site
- Snowmobiling (sold by WI DNR)
- Winter Biking (Capital City State Trail)
- Winter Mountain Biking

Cross-country Skiing

Miles of designated ski trails are groomed to provide cross-country skiers spectacular views. A Cross-country Ski Trail Permit is required. Groomed trails are available at:

- CamRock County Park
- Indian Lake County Park
- Lewis Nine Springs E-Way
- McCarthy Youth & Conservation Park
- Token Creek County Park
- W.G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park

Trails are groomed for both classic and skate skiing. Cross-country skiing is allowed on undesignated trails, however these are not groomed and conditions may not be ideal.



Overview

Winter brings a whole new world of adventure and excitement to the Dane County Park System.

Lace up your boots for a tranquil winter hike or strap on your snowshoes or cross-country skis for an invigorating trek through snow-covered landscapes. We also offer ice fishing, dog parks, sledding hills, bike trails, and family-friendly events. There's so much to explore and discover during the winter months in our park system!

Visit our website to learn more about the opportunities listed in this brochure, including trail maps, and information about trail conditions, open restrooms, and plowed parking areas.

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Sledding

There are four park properties that have designated sledding hills:

- CamRock County Park: Moderate hill with a gradual slope and wonderful view.
- Indian Lake County Park: Fairly gentle and short.
- Lake View Hill County Park: Nice gentle downhill but a long walk back up.
- McCarthy Youth & Conservation County Park: Slope is quite steep and might be better suited for older kids.

Ice Fishing & Lake Access

Explore beautiful ice fishing spots on the Yahara chain of lakes and other locations in our park system. A Lake Access Permit is required to park at improved lake access sites, as well as Mendota County Park and Upper Mud Lake. Dane County Parks does not monitor ice conditions or thickness.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobile trails pass through some park properties. Snowmobilers must remain on marked trails at all times and display a valid snowmobile trail pass sold by Wisconsin

Events

Find family events, volunteer opportunities, nature hikes, workshops and more on our events webpage.

www.danecountyparks.com/events



Hours

Parks are open 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Restrooms

Restroom facilities comply with ADA guidelines and all portable toilets are wheelchair accessible. Open restrooms are listed on our website.

Supporting Parks

There are many ways to support the park system, including donations, volunteering, memorial gifts and more. Find information on our website



Dogs

Dogs are welcome at our eight off-leash dog parks and on-leash throughout the Dane County Park System. Dogs must have a valid Dane County Dog Permit.

Snowshoeing & Hiking

Snowshoeing and winter hiking is allowed on or off-trail at all park properties. The following locations have designated snowshoe trails that are marked to help with navigation:

- Indian Lake County Park
- McCarthy Youth & Conservation Park
- Token Creek County Park
- W.G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park / Capital Springs State Park.

Note that **snowshoeing, hiking, and dogs are NOT allowed on designated cross-country ski trails** when snow is present, even if they have not been groomed.

Winter Biking & Mt. Biking

The Anderson Farm Park Trail, Capital City State Trail (State Trail Pass required), and Lower Yahara River Trail offer plowed hard-surfaces for biking or pedestrian use.

Single-track mountain bike trails are available at three locations during the winter. A Mountain Bike Permit is required. Trails are available at:

- Badger Prairie County Park
- CamRock County Park
- Seminole Mountain Bike Trails

